(b) if so, the details of the agreement signed with the United States with the value of deal

(c) whether India is also considering buying US equipment for army; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) The Government has signed a Letter of Offer and Acceptance with the US Government for the procurement of six C-130J-30 aircraft for the Indian Air Force The estimated value of the aircraft along with associated ground support equipment, ground handling equipment and the role equipment is 962,454,677 USD.

(c) and (d) A Letter of Offer and Acceptance has also been signed with the US Government for procurement of weapons and equipment for the Special Forces of the Army.

Vacation of airwaves for private mobile service providers

1264. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private mobile service providers have approached the Army to vacate airwaves for offering high speed service; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Ministry to this request?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) No private agency providing mobile services has approached Army to vacate airwaves for offering high speed services. Wireless Planning and Coordination Wing (WPC) in Ministry of Communication and Information Technology is the agency concerned for this purpose.

Fire in vehicle factory at Jabalpur

†1265. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an incident of fire in vehicle factory at Jabalpur Madhya Pradesh has come to light;

(b) the number of incidents of fire during last three years,

(c) the equipments which have been destroyed in these fire incidents alongwith their cost;

(d) reasons of fire and whether these incidents of fire occurred due to carelessness of the responsible persons; and

(e) action being taken by Government and Management of the factory to prevent such type of incidents of fire in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. An incident of fire had occured in Vehicle Factory, Jabalpur on 13th April, 2004.

(b) No other major incident of fire has occurred in Vehicle Factory, Jabalpur during the last three years.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) The items which were destroyed in the fire incident of 13th April 2004 in Vehicle Factory, Jabalpur are given below:

(i) Air Coolers (17 Nos)

(ii) Doors (6 Nos)

(iii) Packing Fire Wood (100 Metric Ton)

(iv) Stallions Cabins (187 Nos).

The total value of items destroyed is Rs. 1.25 crores.

(d) The Board of Enquiry constituted to examine the cause of fire, could not determine the exact cause of fire. It was found that the failure to remove the accumumlated scrap and the failure to properly maintain the firefighting equipment were the main reasons for causing substantial loss to Government. Three officers who were found responsible for these lapses have been punished.

(e) Following actions have been taken to prevent such type of incidence of fire:—

(i) Store yard Department has been shifted outside the factory premises and the scrap generated is being removed on a regular basis.

(ii) General Safety Directives, three level safety audit, firefighting exercises etc., are being practiced.

(iii) Wild grass/growth is being cut at regular intervals.

Award money for bravery in different states

†1266. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pelased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the amount of awards given for bravery is not same in different States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of States and the amount of money they provide respectively; and

(c) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Central Government to ensure that all States provide same amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) and (b) The gallantry awards are given by the Central Government and the awardees are paid at uniform rates by the Government of India. However, in addition to these amounts being given by the Government of India, various States Governments/ Union Territory Administrations also provide certain benefits to the awardees, which vary from State to state. The details of monetary and other benefits extended by States/Union Territories are given in the enclosed statement (*See* below).

(c) Payment of grants to the awardees by various states is a matter for the respective State Governments to decide depending upon varying factors like their financial resources, etc. and therefore, it is not possible for the Central Government to ensure that all the States extend these benefits to the awardees at uniform rates.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.